A Quick-Reference Guide to VRAP Water Quality Standards

<table>
<tr><th>Parameter</th><th>Class A Standard</th><th>Class B Standard</th></tr>
<tr><td>Chloride
(mg/L)</td><td colspan="2">Chronic standard is 230 mg/L
Acute standard is 860 mg/L</td></tr>
<tr><td>Chlorophyll-a
(mg/L)</td><td colspan="2">No Numeric Standard
<table><tr><th>Unit</th><th>Category</th></tr><tr><td>< 3</td><td>Excellent</td></tr><tr><td>3 – 7</td><td>Good</td></tr><tr><td>7 – 15</td><td>Less than desirable</td></tr><tr><td>> 15</td><td>Nuisance</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Conductivity/
Specific Conductance
(µS/cm as chloride surrogate)</td><td colspan="2">No Numeric Standard
Although in many fresh surface waters, specific conductance can be used as a surrogate to predict compliance with numeric water quality criteria for chloride.
<table><tr><th>Unit</th><th>Category</th></tr><tr><td>0 – 100</td><td>Normal</td></tr><tr><td>101 – 200</td><td>Low Impact</td></tr><tr><td>201 – 500</td><td>Moderate Impact</td></tr><tr><td>> 501</td><td>High Impact</td></tr><tr><td>Approximately 850</td><td>Likely exceeding the chronic chloride standard</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Dissolved Oxygen
(mg/L & %)</td><td>6 mg/L
75% Minimum Daily Average; Unless Naturally Occurring</td><td>5 mg/L
75% Minimum Daily Average; Unless Naturally Occurring</td></tr>
<tr><td>E. coli
(Counts/100mL)</td><td>Geometric mean of ≤47 E. coli cts/100 mL based on at least 3 samples obtained over a 60-day period
≤ 153 E. coli cts/100 mL in any 1 sample</td><td>Geometric mean of ≤126 E. coli cts/100 mL based on at least 3 samples obtained over a 60-day period
≤ 406 E. coli cts/100 mL in any 1 sample</td></tr>
<tr><td>pH (Units)</td><td colspan="2">6.5 – 8.0
Unless Naturally Occurring
<table><tr><th>pH (Units)</th><th>Category</th></tr><tr><td><5.0</td><td>High Impact</td></tr><tr><td>5.1 – 5.9</td><td>Moderate to High Impact</td></tr><tr><td>6.0 – 6.4</td><td>Normal; Low Impact</td></tr><tr><td>6.5 – 8.0</td><td>Normal;</td></tr><tr><td>6.1 – 8.0</td><td>Satisfactory</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Phosphorus
(mg/L)</td><td colspan="2">No Numeric Standard. As Naturally Occurs
<table><tr><th>Unit</th><th>Category</th></tr><tr><td>< 0.010</td><td>Ideal</td></tr><tr><td>0.011 – 0.025</td><td>Average</td></tr><tr><td>0.026 – 0.049</td><td>More than desirable</td></tr><tr><td>≥0.050</td><td>Excessive “NHDES Level of Concern”
(potential nuisance concentration)</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
(mg/L)</td><td colspan="2">No Numeric Standard. As Naturally Occurs
<table><tr><th>Unit</th><th>Category</th></tr><tr><td>< 0.25</td><td>Ideal</td></tr><tr><td>0.26 – 0.40</td><td>Average</td></tr><tr><td>0.41 – 0.49</td><td>More than desirable</td></tr><tr><td>≥ 0.50</td><td>Excessive
(potential nuisance concentration)</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Turbidity
(NTU)</td><td>As Naturally Occurs</td><td>Shall not exceed naturally occurring conditions by more than 10 NTU</td></tr>
</table>

New Hampshire Volunteer River Assessment Program

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http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vrap/index.htm

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